



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

July 14, 2004

Mr. Robert Schroeder, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a new 115 kV transmission line, expansion of the Buffalo Ridge Substation, and new Yankee Substation, all located in Lincoln County
MEQB DOCKET NO. __-__-TR-XCEL**

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy hereby notifies the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) of its intent to submit an application under the alternative process to construct a 115 kV transmission line and associated facilities (Project) between the Buffalo Ridge Substation east of Lake Benton in Lincoln County and the White Substation in Brookings County, South Dakota. The Project will also expand the Buffalo Ridge Substation and construct a new Yankee Substation. All components of the Minnesota portion of this Project will be located in Lincoln County; we will seek local permits for the South Dakota portion of the Project. We will be following the procedures in parts 4400.2000 to 4400.2750 as authorized by Minnesota Rule 4400.2000. This letter is provided to comply with the requirements of Rule 4400.2000, Subp.2.

Xcel Energy expects to file the application at the end of the month. We will work with Staff to address any comments they have in order to expedite application acceptance and completion of the environmental assessment. We will submit our first permit fee payment shortly to assist in covering staff costs and expenses.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pamela Jo Rasmussen'.

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Permitting Analyst

c: Larry Hartman
Lisa Agrimonti